

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 4-7 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the underlying subject matter.

Please add new claims 8-11.

1. (Previously Amended) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement.
2. (Previously Amended) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule capable of specifically hybridizing to a second nucleic acid molecule having the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement.
3. (Currently Amended) A substantially purified *Arabidopsis thaliana* protein, ~~wherein said protein is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement~~ encoded by a molecule of claim 2.

4. - 7. (Cancelled)

- A 8. (New) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence having between 100% and 90% identity to a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.
- 5 9. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence having between 100% and 95% identity to a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.
- 6 10. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 9, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence having between 100% and 98% identity to a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.
- 7 11. (New) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence having between 100% and 99% identity to a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.